

to entrance to raft show  
new design in fall July 1966.

# the **WESTERN POTTER**



(5)

Exp. 3-4

Harry Davis Workshop  
April 1966

July 1966

EDITORIAL

In the March issue of The Western Potter, an attempt was made to answer the question "why don't potters use more colour?".

Unfortunately the answer seemed buried beneath some rather high sounding but 'woolly' phrases.

Surely the question divides itself into two categories, the first technical and the second aesthetic. From the technical viewpoint and with a few exceptions, it simply is not possible to obtain bright colour at stoneware temperatures. The very name 'stoneware' implies a rock-like quality in terms of both strength and muted colour. The potter must reduce firing temperatures fairly drastically if high keyed colour is desired, but for various reasons the upper firing range is generally preferred. In short, the stoneware palette has a physical limitation.

Turning to aesthetic considerations, many potters feel that bright colour is simply not in keeping with the earthy quality of clay. Furthermore, they feel that any loss in brilliance is more than compensated for in terms of subtlety and harmony of material. The modern potter has turned away from pre-occupation with mere surface. He has become concerned with form and the expressive possibility of clay itself rather than bright colour which would tend to dominate the expression. The question of colour in glazes is a valid one and having raised the query, we should attempt to provide an answer. Certainly the craftsman must be true to his philosophy, but this does not cut much ice with the man who does not understand what that philosophy is in the first place.

Editor

*Sam Downing*

## President's Annual Report

The British Columbia Potters' Guild showed considerable progress during the year ended in April 1966. The membership increased substantially, varied activities were undertaken, and the finances of the organization accrued to a sounder basis.

Meetings: A number of executive meetings were held during the year, also a number of general meetings of an educational nature, at which the following were among the lecturers:

Glenn Lewis  
Michael Henry  
Stan Clarke  
Wayne Ngan

Newsletter: Issues of "The Western Potter" were published and mailed to the membership and others during the year. This publication has been an outstanding vehicle in the process of building and informing the organization.

Exhibitions: Two exhibitions were held during the year.

1. A one-day demonstration and display at the Pacific National Exhibition. This was not a sale, but the display of members' work, and the demonstration of throwing attracted large crowds, and was much appreciated by the P. N. E. It will be repeated this year.

2. The first annual HYCROFT Sale was a huge success, far exceeding our expectations. Held in November 1965, it did much to increase public awareness of the value of hand-made pottery. This will be repeated in November this year.

Workshops: Two workshops were held during the year.

1. A one-day workshop held outdoors in July 1965, conducted by Hal Reigger of the University of California, was attended by about forty members. Experimental in character, it provided much inspiration and food for thought.

2. The Harry Davis Workshop, a three-day affair arranged through the Canadian Guild of Potters, was one of the most successful ever held by the B. C. Potters' Guild. Harry Davis, from New Zealand, is a remarkable person, and the quality and amount of

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information he was able to impart during the sessions was almost unbelievable. Held in April 1966 at the U. B. C. Ceramics Hut, it was attended by 48 members, some travelling hundreds of miles to participate. Photographs were taken and distributed to members.

All in all, it was an active and successful year, and the Guild has made a substantial gain in prestige in the field of arts and crafts.

Eric Marsden

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May we remind the membership that fees (\$3.00) for 1966 were due April 1. Please note that the Treasurer's new address is:

Mr. J. Diggle,  
1070 West Keith Road,  
North Vancouver, B. C.

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B. C. Potters' Guild Executive Committee - April 1966

	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Duties</u>
President:	Eric Marsden 5803 Marine Drive, W. Van.	921-9361	Coordination
1st Vice- President:	Tam Irving, 5809 Marine Dr., W. Van.	921-7573	Editor
2nd " "	Rod Maxwell-Muir 3937 Norland, Burnaby	CY 8-6932	Exhibitions
3rd " "	Mrs Johann Polberg 362 W. 27th St., N. Van.	987-3831	Social
Treasurer:	Mr. Jack Diggle 1070 W. Keith Rd., N. Van.	YU 8-7017	Financial



# Executive Committee (cont'd)

	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Duties</u>
Recording Secretary:	Mrs Irene Berchtenbreiter 5761 148th St. RR 14, N. Surrey		Minutes
Corresponding Secretary:	Bill Parsk 2468 115A St. , N. Surrey	584-6010	Correspondence
Member at Large:	Mrs Muriel Parfitt 4105 Burkehill Rd. , W. Van	922-1758 )	General
"	Mrs Maude Bain 121 28th St. , W. Van	WA 2-5072 )	
"	Mr. Gary Crawford 4658 Clinton St. , Burnaby	435-7003 )	
"	Mr. Stan Clarke 2982 164th St. , White Rock	574-4829 )	Workshops
Out-of-town Members:			
Regional Rep. Okanagan:	Mrs Frances Hatfield Box 808, Vernon, B. C.	)	Regional News Letters
Vancouver Island:	Mrs Gerry Weld Box 217, Duncan, B. C.	)	
Kootenays:	Mr. Santo Mignosa 515 Robson St. , Nelson, B. C.	)	

## B. C. POTTERS' GUILD MEETINGS

### Annual General Meeting, April 21, 1966

Following presentation of the President's Annual Report (see page 2) a new slate of officers was elected by acclamation. After business had been concluded, Mr. Wayne Ngan gave an interesting and humorous account of the history of his association with pottery and showed excellent slides of his work.

### Executive Meeting, May 31, 1966

Officers were assigned specific duties (see pages 3 and 4). Agreement was reached to write a further letter to the Vancouver Art Gallery to inquire if any decision had been made concerning the Western Canadian Craft Show which we proposed last year.

### General Meeting, June 21, 1966

The new executive was introduced to the membership. Announcements were made as follows:

1. Copies of photographs taken during the Harry Davis workshop can still be obtained from Eric Marsden - 10¢ each.
2. Word has still not been received from the Vancouver Art Gallery concerning the proposed Western Canada Craft Show.
3. If possible, the Guild will organize a seminar by John Reeves when he reaches Vancouver.

Following the conclusion of business, Tam Irving gave a talk on kiln construction slanted towards the part-time potter.

### Executive Meeting, June 29, 1966

The meeting was called to organize the John Reeves Seminar to be held in July.

## DISTRICT NEWS

### Kootenay

The Ceramic Division of the Kootenay Achool of Art, Nelson, has submitted ten pieces of ceramics to the 24th Concorso Internazionale della Ceramica in Faenza, Italy. These were composed of two sets of six thrown bowls and one set of six hand-built mugs (a set being considered a piece). The rest were all hand-built pots, one of which incorporated a small copper sculpture. All pieces were reduction Stoneware.

Santo Mignosa will be conducting a Summer Course in Ceramics at the Kootenay School of Art from July 4 to August 5. This course is designed to give basic information on the various phases of Forming, Decorating, Firing, Throwing etc., and to give an insight into the materials used. Anyone interested may attend this course. However, it is specially designed for those who wish to enter this field professionally. Fees are \$20 plus \$1.00 student activity.

This Summer should prove most exciting. An entirely different approach will be offered by Hal Reigger, well-known American Potter, who is returning to Nelson for the second time to Notre Dame University, to conduct another of his experimental Pot Trips. This will be a three week workshop in Raku, covering hand-built pottery, simple glaze formulation, designing and building small wood firing kilns and the use of such kilns. Course starting July 11 to 30 inclusive, 6 to 8 hours daily. Fees will be \$55.00. For further information, contact the Dept. of Extension, Notre Dame University of Nelson, B. C. Most probably, a Japanese-style Raku party will conclude this workshop.

Mr. Mignosa has been invited to conduct a one week workshop in Prince Albert, Sask. sometime next Fall. Such workshop being part of a centennial project for that city.

The Canadian Design '67 of the National Design Council of the Dept. of Industry has selected a soup bowl by Mr. Mignosa, specially designed for slip casting for the New Product Design Competition.

## Okanagan

Okanagan Summer School of Art at Penticton has invited Gillian Hodge and Frances Hatfield to instruct in the Pottery Dept. during the three week session July 11 - 30. We plan to use a mix of local and other clay for some of our projects and to build a Raku kiln and also do a pasture firing, along with the usual work inside the school studio.

Frank Poll opened his studio "Pottery Hill" outside Vernon on highway 6 on June 10th. A large crowd attended and enjoyed weaving by W. Dahinden, paintings by Leroy Jenson of Kelowna as well as the pottery and sculpture of Mr. Poll. He has developed a delightful home and shop at this location and will be happy to see visiting potters.

Zelko Kujunzic will be teaching pottery and painting in his "Art Centre" on Richter St., Kelowna also during July.

Walter Dexter will be in his studio on Lakeshore Road, Okanagan Mission, Kelowna, all summer and will also be glad to see visitors.

This is a rather special summer for Mr. and Mrs Schwenk of the Schwenk Pottery, Penticton, as it precedes their wonderful trip to England and Europe on the Canada Council grant, won by Adolph this spring.

Frances Hatfield will be operating her Pinehill Pottery shop featuring all types of Canadian Handcrafts again this summer on the highway about a mile north of Winfield. Open daily during July and August.

It was great to see all of you at the Harry Davis workshop at Easter. A warm 'thank you' from this potter to the Guild for making such a tremendous workshop possible.

Frances Hatfield

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## Vancouver Island

The Comox Valley Arts Council has announced the opening of their Vancouver Island Summer School of Arts from July 6th - 23rd. This will be held in beautiful Courtenay and could add up to an ideal



## Vancouver Island (cont'd)

summer holiday for the whole family. The program offers adult instruction in - painting, pottery, music, drama, writing and rock-hounding. Children will be kept absorbed with modeling in clay, singing-dancing and all sorts of other Fun things. An enormous amount of perseverance has gone into organizing this first year, and we wish them a real and continuing success. For a brochure, write: Mrs Beryl Regier, Box 206, Courtenay, B.C., or phone - Courtenay 334-3367.

The 16th Annual Jury show, from April 19th into May, at the Victoria Gallery, drew more entries than ever before. These were severely whittled down by the Jury. However, the public was invited to see all submissions before the judging. This provided an interesting basis for everyone's favourite pastime of Judging the Judges when all returned to view the juried show. I had a life-size ceramic sculpture, head and shoulders, of an old Indian woman accepted. The judge of sculpture was Philip McCracken, Washington.

A new outlet for top-flight painting, pottery and sculpture ... The Art Market ... at the Wagon Wheel, has opened at 5276 West Saanich Road. Mrs Jean Hartley and her son assure you of excellent display facilities and works are insured at no cost to the artist. They plan to have a children's summer theatre there and other adult activities. They would welcome a letter if you are interested.

The Sidney Arts and Crafts show was larger than ever, held over the May 24th week-end. A very wide selection of crafts and paintings were shown, with demonstrations of wheel-throwing and displays of pottery. Mr. Ken Bloomfield demonstrated clay and cement sculpture; Mrs Vi Moss modelled the small, delicately exact replicas of birds and animals at which she excels. There were a number of other live displays including batik work. A really swinging show and worth remembering should you be over here next year.

From the Island, wishing you a busy and happy Summer.

Gerry Weld.

## Vancouver

Potter Trades Prairies for B. C. Miss Marjo van Tooren, who has been a member of the Alberta Potters' Guild for 5 years, has recently arrived from Edmonton. She is part-owner of the Little Tea House at Horseshoe Bay, through which she hopes to establish a ceramic workshop and craft shop. Originally from Holland, she brings along some fresh ideas about ceramic jewellery - she even makes ceramic buttons - and will start producing on a larger scale as soon as she has acquired a kiln.

Any potters wishing to consign work to the craft shop are cordially invited to drop in and see her. In fact, if you are in the Horseshoe Bay area, do pay a visit to the Little Tea House. Going is a bit rough out there, and unless you are looking for a hamburger (which they refuse to serve!) you can enjoy a pleasant hour in quite different surroundings.

New "Pot Shoppe" Opens. Hamilton born Dennis Vance and his partner Glenda McMullen, have opened The Pot Shoppe, 1420 West Pender, Tel: 685-3180. Potters wishing to consign work should contact Dennis. At present the shop is specializing in B.C. crafts but future projections call for the opening of a second and larger store which may carry work from the East and possibly the U.S.A. Dennis, a sculptor in his own right, says that he eventually hopes to establish a gallery in conjunction with a pot shop.

Potter Arrives from England. Mr. Ian Steele, 752 East 51st, Tel. 327-8076, graduate from the Vancouver School of Art, has recently returned from England after studying under Bernard Leach. Ian plans to set up a workshop somewhere in the Vancouver area. He is interested in the possibility of combining wood with other fuels for kiln firing.

### "Potting Shed" at U. B. C. Closing Down

After completion of the July Summer School, the "Potting Shed", operated by the Extension Department of U. B. C. , will close its doors. We understand that an alternative workshop may be organized by an independent group. Details will be reported when available.

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### Harry Davis Workshop a Huge Success

Mr. Davis was able to provide so much information that we have listed details in a special report which will be issued separately. Considerable interest was shown in the photographs taken by Eric Marsden and we plan to continue this practice in future.

We should count ourselves fortunate to have been able to attend the three-day seminar. Too often we are confronted by professional craft teachers with somewhat sketchy experience in practical application. By contrast, Mr. Davis was embarking on his first educational assignment after many years as a production potter, initially in England and latterly in New Zealand. Interestingly enough, the seminar proved as revealing for Mr. Davis as it did for those who attended. On the one hand he learnt about the handicaps under which the amateur potter operates, while on the other we discovered ways of correcting them. The two-way exchange was a refreshing and vital experience.

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### Pots Wanted!

Mr. Arran Stephens has recently opened the East-West Gallery, 1548 Marine Drive, West Vancouver, tel: 926-1451. He would be pleased to hear from any potters wishing to exhibit work.

CENTENNIAL CRAFT SHOW  
New Design Gallery, June 7 - July 2.  
Reviewed by Tam Irving

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The New Design Gallery made a brave attempt to organize a comprehensive craft show in June. Works included pots by Michael Henry, Glen Lewis and Tam Irving; woven constructions by Sharon Hassell; batiks by Elaine Hinchcliffe; jewellery by Phil Morgan and sand cast candles by Sheila and Cuyler Page.

The gallery suffers from somewhat cramped quarters in its present location in an old house on Burrard Street, and under these circumstances it simply was not possible to display such a wide variety of works to advantage. A smaller selection of more carefully chosen items would have provided much greater visual impact.

The pottery by Michael Henry and Glen Lewis re-stated the concern with strength, simplicity and directness of execution which we have observed in previous exhibitions. Tam Irving emphasized richness of glaze and decoration.

Sharon Hassell provided interesting, though somewhat "old hat" attempts to push weaving into the area of sculpture. Perhaps the time has come to experiment with other media - metal or plastic ribbon suggest themselves. Fine craftsmanship evident in batiks by Elaine Hinchcliffe might have been better served by more imaginative design. Phil Morgan would do well to spend more thought on the display of his jewellery. I was uncomfortably aware of the oversize price tags and felt that a more colourful backdrop would have provided better contrast. Furthermore, the use of dead braches for hanging jewellery is becoming tiresomely repetitive. As a result of these irritations, my study of the work was cursory. Candles by Sheila and Cuyler Page showed much potential but we were presented with far too much of 'the same'. Less of the 'cake decorating technique' and more concern with form and material would have been welcome. This couple also showed a large combination wood and ceramic casserole. Such combinations are difficult at the best of times and in this case proved unsuccessful to the point of vulgarity.

Unfortunately there appeared to be no press coverage.



## CENTENNIAL OUTDOOR ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

August 6th & 7th, 1966

We invite you to participate in a Centennial Outdoor Arts and Crafts Fair, Saturday and Sunday, August 6th and 7th, from 10 a.m. till dark, in the marina parking area at the foot of Lonsdale, North Vancouver.

An informal environment, including a magnificent view of Vancouver and the harbour, adequate parking space and good publicity will attract tourists and Vancouverites alike. Sales are inevitable.

Paintings, etchings, prints, drawings, pottery, crafts, etc. should be brought to the exhibiting area before 10 a.m., Saturday. Each artist will be responsible for his own display and sales. A group of friends could share responsibility.

In case of rain, the Seven Seas Floating Restaurant has offered its lower deck for display.

Registration form (See page 15) and entry fee of \$2.00 per exhibitor, should be received by Monday, August 1, 1966.

Jo Dean 987-6085

Frances Faminow 929-2240

(Editor's Note: No. 7 Gallery advises that no commission will be charged on sales. Cates C.H. and Sons Tugs Ltd. have offered the use of their wharf for displaying work. Good press coverage has been organized and the Fair may be featured in Vancouver Life.)

## EXHIBITIONS

Canadian Ceramics 1965 - Fine Arts Gallery, U. B. C.,  
July 4 - August 19. 1966

CANADIAN CERAMICS 1965 contains fifty-five separate entries from across Canada. Under the auspices of the Canadian Guild of Potters, and circulated by the Western Canada Art Circuit, the ceramics in this exhibition underwent a rigorous examination prior to being accepted. Their first jury was a regional one, after which the winning entries were further juried by a trio of tough-minded critics: Franz Wildenhain and Harold Brennan, of Rochester, N. Y., and Paul Arthur, Editor, Canadian Art.

Among the local potters on show are the following:  
John A. Boerrigter, Margery Mackay, Wayne Ngan, and  
Hilda K. Ross, of Greater Vancouver; Santo Mignosa, of  
Nelson; and Margarete Nehl-McLennan, of Victoria.

Battered after the long circuit but worth a visit - was one critic's reaction. Unfortunately the show has been relegated to a small space at one end of the Gallery. Despite such indifferent display, the show should not be missed.

## WHERE TO EXHIBIT

Everson Museum of Art - 24th Ceramic National. Entry fee for Canadian ceramists is \$5.50. Entries must be submitted to the Canadian Potters' Guild August 11 to 12. For information write to:

Everson Museum of Art  
407 James Street,  
Syracuse, New York, 13203.

Canadian Handicrafts Guild Competition. A competitive display of crafts will be held at the Canadian National Exhibition, August 19 - September 5, 1966. Entry fee \$2.00. Submissions accepted only from July 23 to July 30. For information write to:

Miss Viola E. Harris, Executive Secretary,  
Canadian Handicraft Guild (Ontario)  
75-77 Bloor St. West, Toronto 5, Ontario.

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"The Western Potter" is published by the B. C. Potters' Guild quarterly. It is mailed to members free. Membership dues are \$3.00 a year. Individual copies of "The Western Potter" can be purchased for 25¢ each.

Note: Permission should be requested from the B. C. Potters' Guild for reprinting any part of this publication.

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## WANTED

Small kiln for ceramic jewellery. Must have  
Kanthal elements.

Call The Teahouse, Horseshoe Bay, 921-7971.

(Registration Form)

Centennial Outdoor Arts & Crafts Fair,  
c/o Number 7 Gallery,  
7 Lonsdale Avenue,  
North Vancouver, B. C.

I/We propose to exhibit at the Centennial Outdoor Arts & Crafts Fair, North Vancouver, on August 6 & 7, 1966, the articles described below.

I/We recognize that no responsibility can be assumed by the sponsors of the fair for any loss or damage to exhibits.  
Entry fee of \$2.00 is enclosed.

(Description of articles) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Name of exhibitor) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (phone number)

(Signature and date) \_\_\_\_\_



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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I would like to become a member of the B. C. Potters' Guild.

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZONE \_\_\_\_\_

Send cheques plus exchange to Treasurer of the B. C. Potters' Guild:

Mr. Jack Diggle,  
1070 West Keith Road,  
North Vancouver, B. C.

(Membership Fee - \$3.00)



Ms. G. Hughes,  
1200 W. Keith Rd.,  
North Vancouver, B.C.

